

CENTER SCENE



The Bureau of Land Management Service Center Newsletter

August 1988

ASAP PURCHASING

ASAP definition: As-Soon-As-Possible; in other words, it should have been done yesterday.

ASAP alternate definition: Automated System for Acquisition Processing, or much quicker than was previously thought possible.

For many people within BLM, ASAP is beginning to take on new meaning. ASAP (Automated System for Acquisition Processing) is the acronym for a proposed automated purchasing system that is currently on the drawing board. A project team has defined user needs, including the automation of requisitioning, purchase order/contract preparation, funds obligation and commitment, receiving, and purchase order/contract administration.

The work thus far has been done by some very energetic and knowledgeable people, three of which are Service Center employees. Larry Keller, Procurement Analyst, is the ASAP Project Manager. Larry's career with BLM began as a cooperative education employee while attending Metro State College in Denver. His career has progressed to where he is now a Procurement Analyst in the Branch of Procurement (D-551) and the Project Manager on this significant Bureauwide automation effort.

Iris Matney and Gary Aho, both Computer Systems Analysts, are currently working on the conversion of the user requirements to a functional requirements document. Iris has been heavily involved with the team since the beginning of the project, whereas Gary is a recent, and most welcome, addition.

The rest of the team is composed of representatives from the Washington Office, State Offices, and District Offices.

The team has done an excellent job of representing the various levels of the Bureau in properly defining the user needs for an automated procurement system. And work thus far has not been accomplished by just one or two "brainstorming" sessions. The individuals and their offices have made substantial sacrifices to



Gary Aho, Iris Matney, and Project Leader Larry Keller.

participate in 14 project work sessions completed since the initial meeting in August 1986.

The team has also received critical input from sources representing two systems with which ASAP will interface - property and finance.

All of this analysis work is critical to ensure that the target purchasing system fully meets the needs of the Bureau. The difficulty of the job is compounded by the fact that detailed user requirements have never been developed for procurement-related processes anywhere in the Federal Government. As Larry Keller observes, "The team is breaking new trails across very complicated ground."

The goal of all this work is to develop a system that will make the procurement process work better for everyone in BLM. That includes the requisitioners, program managers, property personnel, finance personnel, and maybe even you the next time you need to purchase something!

UPCOMING EVENTS

Multicultural Day Picnic, Bicentennial Park, August 3; Exhibits, August 2-3, Executive Conference Room

Women's Equality Day Career Workshop and Brown Bag Lunch/Video, August 25, East/Center/West

Hispanic Heritage Week Observance, September 15-16, Center/West

THE FRENCH-ASIAN CONNECTION

Dion Dishong, Civil Engineering Technician with the Branch of Engineering Services, brings a unique background to his Service Center job.

After receiving a forestry undergraduate degree and attending Army Engineer School, Dion was commissioned and began his career with the Army Corps of Engineers. He served with a variety of units, including the combat engineer battalion of the 7th Infantry Division in Korea, an engineering unit in Vietnam, and a mapping and intelligence unit in Hawaii and later Korea that worked on Southeast Asia and other projects. Later, Dion served as Facilities Engineer at Camp A.P. Hill, Virginia, where he was responsible for construction, maintenance, and natural resource activities.

Dion's BLM career began in 1978 when he joined the Service Center engineering organization. At the same time, he began an Army Reserve assignment as an engineer officer in a large reserve unit at the Federal Center. He presently holds the rank of Lieutenant Colonel in the First Maneuver Training Command, USAR.

In Dion's reserve engineering assignments, he has been involved in many engineering projects, all related in some way to his SC engineering responsibilities with BLM. These projects have included water well development, range improvements, fire fighting, road construction and maintenance, campground development, and pipeline installation. The military engineers have conducted many exercises on lands administered by the Forest Service and BLM. The Forest Service, in particular, has benefited considerably from the engineering site support projects, such as roads, bridges, and culverts, constructed during the military exercises.

Dion enjoys his dual BLM-military role. His education, training, skills, and interests have combined in a unique, satisfying career.

CO-OP STUDENTS



*Front Row: Ethylene Crenshaw, Diana Moreno, Jennifer Reese.
Back Row: Donald Maroncelli, Kelly Sorenson, Jacek Blaszczyński.*

Each year the Service Center recruits for co-op and student trainee positions. We would like to introduce you to these people.

On the Technology Transfer Staff (D-140) is Jennifer Reese, who is attending the University of Colorado, Denver, for a bachelor of fine arts degree. Working here, she has learned practical applications for her skills. Also in D-140 is Kelly Sorenson, who is studying commercial art at Metro State College. Kelly has learned more about career goals, graphics on the computer, and interrelationships with people.

Patricia Amone, D-152, graduated from Metro State with a degree in computer management science and is working here as a Computer Systems Analyst. Patricia tells us that she has gained more indepth experience in systems analysis and realizes now how projects run in the Government.

Working in D-154 is Donald Maroncelli, student Computer Systems Programmer. He is working on his masters of science in information systems at UCD. Donald has received good experience with data base management systems and has created several small data bases.

Jacek Blaszczyński is a student trainee who is studying environmental science at the Colorado School of Mines and working in D-155. Jacek says he has enjoyed applying his knowledge from the classroom and has learned how to bring together geographic GIS and soil erosion equations that help in resource manage-

ment. "The real world of application is the best thing for me," notes Jacek.

Working in D-223 for the second year is Ethylene Crenshaw, who is a computer student trainee. She attends the University of Arkansas in Pinebluff, Arkansas, studying math and computer science. Hands-on experience with computers and working with people mean a lot to her. Recently, Ethylene spoke at a co-op training session in Reno, Nevada.

David Ellerbroek is a student trainee in physical science in D-471. He is attending the Colorado School of Mines, where he is studying environmental science. His work includes instrument flow analysis and hydrology. He has designed a ground water data base and is on his way to Alaska to do work with one of our hydrologists.

The co-op student in Accounting, D-515, is Diana Moreno. She is attending Emily Griffith Opportunity School, where she is taking classes in general office procedures and data entry. The hands-on experience with clerical work and computers is quite a benefit, along with the opportunity to relate with other people.

RIDE THE ROCKIES

This year, the week of June 19-24, I was fortunate (?) to be able to ride in "Ride the Rockies," the annual bicycle ride sponsored by the Denver Post. This year it was 6 days and 384 miles from Craig to Golden and had 2,000 participants. I follow in the pedals of other people in D-220 who have done it in previous years: Kay Thomas and Marvin Gutwein.

The focus of the event, of course, is

riding a bike through the Rockies, which can be enjoyable if you're in good condition. The principle is simple - point your bike in the right direction and start pedaling. Most of us did that as kids. Since the Denver Post and Channel 4 gave adequate coverage to those aspects, I will write about some of my personal impressions.

First, the endless, tedious hours and miles of training required; the chores left undone; the social life that suffered; the windy weather this spring that had to be ignored - because it was train, train, train. Training became an obsession that ended with a big sigh of relief - both by the bikers and their friends and spouses.

During the ride, aid stations were provided about every 20 miles. With 2,000 bikers, there were lines for food, lines to fill water bottles, lines for the bathrooms. Sometimes I swear there were lines to get in lines.

Two thousand people plus support personnel can obviously impact the resources of many small communities. The communities where bikers spent the night were generally very supportive and made the local high school available for community meals and accommodations. Most bikers camped around or slept in the school. You guessed it: lines for food; lines for showers; lines for bathrooms; lines for water; lines for lines; and a friendly, unusual level of intimacy enforced by sleeping next to hundreds of total strangers.

Other impressions: getting up at 4:30 to 5:30 every morning for an early start, standing in line for breakfast with maybe no opportunity to brush the teeth, repeating the ritual of finding a place to sleep, and then proceeding with the continual search for food.

But, oh - the camaraderie that can only be shared with those who are there; the moments when the person and the bike and the mountains are the only world that exists; the pride of accomplishment every evening at having crossed the distances and the mountain passes; passing under the finish banner - I did it!; the hollow feeling that it happened too fast and is over too soon; and being able to casually say "Yeah, I did Ride the Rockies. It wasn't too difficult."

Ride the Rockies was many things to many people. This is part of what it was to me.

—Wayne Buehrer, D-220